

Syllabus  
**Information Resource Discovery**  
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The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the tools and techniques useful in finding different types of information online.

This course looks at the methods used to search and discover information in web information systems and digital libraries. Methods that are covered include information retrieval, which includes techniques for searching, browsing and filtering information, descriptive metadata, the use of classification systems and thesauruses, with examples from web search systems and online information systems.

**Topics to be covered include:**

- ✚ The growth of online information
- ✚ Boolean Query Structure
- ✚ Types of information – characteristics and formats
- ✚ Search Engines
- ✚ Understanding tagging and hypertext
- ✚ Digital Libraries
- ✚ Corporate Information Resources
- ✚ Personal Information Resources
- ✚ Government Information Resources
- ✚ Meta-Data
- ✚ Agents, P2P and other Search Tools

**Bibliography (partial):**

Search Industry Websites:

[www.searchenginewatch.com](http://www.searchenginewatch.com)

[www.alexa.com](http://www.alexa.com)

[www.websearch.about.com](http://www.websearch.about.com)

Google Tech Background: <http://www.google.com/corporate/tech.html>

Copernic Search Agent and Desktop Search: [www.copernic.com](http://www.copernic.com)

National Digital Library Program: <http://dli.grainger.uiuc.edu/national.htm>

D-Lib Magazine: <http://www.dlib.org/>

Using the Internet for Searching: <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march04/03editorial.html>

Internet Archives: <http://www.archive.org/>

**Grading:**

60% Exam

40% Information Gathering Tasks and Reports

I will define a series of information gathering and reporting tasks. You will be required to design, justify, and execute a search plan to produce a detailed, thorough, and coherent result. The search task will involve elements from Digital Libraries, Government Resources, Personal Data, Corporate Data, Industry Data and more.